

THE Anti-Slavery Reporter.

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55, NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Anti-Slavery Jubilee

FIFTY years ago the English Parliament passed an Act decreeing the emancipation of the Slaves in all the Colonies of Great Britain. Slavery still exists to an appalling extent in Africa, Brazil, and many other countries. The descendants of those men who fought the great battle of freedom which was carried to so successful an issue in 1834-1838 ought not to neglect the duty of continuing the struggle in other parts of the world.

To celebrate this great event

THE RT. HON. THE LORD MAYOR, M.P.,

Has kindly consented to preside at a

PUBLIC MEETING

OF

The British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society,

TO BE HELD AT THE

MANSION HOUSE

On *AUGUST* 1st, 1884,

Being the 50th Anniversary of the day on which the Emancipation Act became law in the British Colonies.

FURTHER PARTICULARS WILL BE ANNOUNCED.

The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

THE CONGO.

MEMORIAL OF THE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

IN acknowledging the above memorial (printed in our last number, page 84), Earl Granvilles wrote requesting to be furnished "with any further information which the Society may possess as to the export of Slaves from the Portuguese possessions on the Coast to San Thomé and other islands, and also any evidence showing that the alleged Slave-trade is confined to the districts under Portuguese jurisdiction."

In reply, the following documents have been forwarded to Earl Granville:—

Enclosure No. 1.]

Extract from "*De Rebus Africanis*," by the Earl of Mayo, pp. 25-27.

"Catumbella, the name of which is taken from the river on which it stands, is the next place. There is a fort at the entrance of the river, which goes a considerable distance inland. It is from here that Slaves are shipped to St. Thomas on the Line!

With regard to the much-vexed Slavery question, it may be stated with truth that Slaves can be bought and sold still in the provinces of the Portuguese colonies. In 1878, the Portuguese Government abolished the Slave-trade in all their possessions, but means were found to carry on the traffic under another name. What really goes on in the Portuguese dominions on the south-west coast is as follows:—The Portuguese possess the island of St. Thomas on the Line, the capital, Santa Anna, being only twenty-one miles and a half north of the equator, and also Princes Island, where there are no aborigines, and where most suitable soil, capable of producing any kind of crops, is unable to be cultivated unless labour is imported. They have got

over the difficulty by importing what they call 'Colonials.' At Catumbella, some seven miles north of Benguella, the natives are brought down by agents from the interior, the agents stating that they are natives freed from the Slavery which they were in to their own chiefs, the retail price being about £7 each. They are brought in lighters to Benguella from Catumbella, and then taken to Loando in the Portuguese mail steamer, where a certain form is gone through. Their names, age, and descriptions are taken by the Government officials, and they are asked a number of silly questions, such as, 'Are you hungry?' 'Have you had anything to eat?' or, 'Do you want any food?' in order that the affirmative 'Yes' may be elicited and put down declaring their willingness to go and labour at St. Thomas for five years. The Government officials, of course, get their fees for each contract. Then the agent proceeds to ship these niggers on Portuguese mail boats from Loando to St. Thomas on the Line. The negroes are provided with a wooden spoon, and, I believe, some platters, and a certain amount of cotton stuff for clothing, and then they are examined by a doctor and shipped off as deck passengers to St. Thomas. In the steamer by which I came here there were eighty-two of these African natives, men and women, on their way to the island. If the women are good-looking, they become the mistresses of the Portuguese planters; if they are not, they go into the fields and work. They are paid about twopence a day, and provided with food and lodging. The great curse of the system is that any planter, after he has received his consignment of black labourers, can go down to Santa Anna, the capital of St. Thomas, and re-contract those natives without consulting them, for another term of five or seven years. That this is virtually Slavery cannot be denied. The natives, when labouring at St. Thomas, are treated well, but none of them ever see Africa again. It is not exaggeration to say that this rule is invariable. They suffer very much from nostalgia (home-sickness), and go to St. Thomas to work and die. These are bare, unvarnished facts.

"We will now endeavour to find the best and most efficient means of stopping this traffic in human flesh. If Her Majesty's gunboats on the coast had orders to board all lighters and Portuguese steamers coming from Catumbella, an action which I believe they have a perfect right to take, and demand any papers relating to any natives on board such lighters or steamers the traffic would, in my opinion, cease at once. Coolie labour to the Brazils was stopped at Macao, west of Hong Kong, and there is no reason why it should not be stopped here. Of course, the Portuguese would say that these contracts are fair transactions between themselves and the natives—that the latter are not really Slaves, but are paid labourer's wages, and contract themselves of their own free will—and they would also say, and with truth, that if 'Colonials' from St. Thomas were stopped, everybody in that island would be ruined."

Enclosure No. 2.]

Extract from letter of a *Congo Merchant*,
dated *March 28, 1884.*

"Slavery does not exist *de jure*, and not under the conditions which are commonly attached to the word; but *de facto* it exists under the appellation of *engagement libre*, and is carried on with the full knowledge of the Government. Near Ambriz there is a Facenda, where sugar-cane is manufactured into rum, in which 500 to 600 negroes are constantly employed. They work like Slaves under strict supervision. These so-called Libertos come, for the greater part, from *Redondo*, and my informant has seen, in 1878, in the month of April, a Portuguese brig with about 200 men, women, and children closely packed and declared as emigrants. He saw this brig at St. Thomas. The Facenda, where the labourers are locked in at night, belongs to Nicols Nunez Ferreira.

"The negroes of Cabinda are so demoralised that they sell each other, and in an entire family, and you can buy them at Ambriz at any time, and, according to special attraction, at 30 to 40 mille reis per boy or girl, between 10 and 15 years of age; and nearly all Europeans possess one or more of these creatures for domestic purposes. All factories purchase their labourers and domestics in this manner, with the full knowledge of the Government.

The Portuguese, both officials and merchants, are totally demoralised, and have the worst influence on the natives.

"The Portuguese officials, with few exceptions, are without any sense of shame or morality, and are easily bought. The following are a few examples:—In 1875 the Director of Customs at Ambriz (a former officer in the army) delivered from the custom-house stores 40 cases of arms, making a false declaration as to re-exportation, solely for the purpose of discharging a small private debt which he owed to an importer (D—s). In 1876 the commandant of Ambriz delivered against a bribe a certain well-known quantity of powder from the military stores without taking for the duty. His name was Carlos de Sanogeira. The newspapers published at St. Paul de Loanda are full of obscene stories, which speaks volumes for the demoralisation of the resident Portuguese.

"The emigrants from Portugal are to the greatest extent criminals or prisoners for minor offences. Each ship from Portugal lands from 40 to 50 of this class, who move about the ship in freedom, and are let loose on arrival to find their own mode of existence. If a native servant or labourer is convicted for an offence, he is made into a soldier as his punishment. No time for service is fixed, and the army is principally composed of this element. There are neither proper uniforms nor proper discipline. The other soldiers are uncivilised negroes from the interior, who are enlisted for life, and who are nothing better than Slaves. This army, which is composed of the outcasts, both black and white, and which is scarcely under any control of the officers, is more dreaded than any of the savage tribes. As a proof of the immorality of civil officials, the following fact may be cited:—In 1882 a very high excise was imposed on spirits, guns, and powder, which in a few months yielded nine contos (£2000). This money has been absorbed for a pretended road to the cemetery, about 200 mètres long, where no stones were required, and only the sods had to be turned. The President of the Council has disappeared with his cash. His name was Francisco Juan Franca."

Extract from letter of a *Congo Merchant*, dated
April 5, 1884.

"It is of the utmost necessity to point out that the trade will *not* be safe under the new

system, and that African merchants, as well as British industry, have still the same strong reason to complain and protest. Allow me to illustrate this unfavourable opinion by the following:—

"If I ship a lot of earthenware to Angola, f.i., this may cost me some £50. Now, every one will think that, if the new treaty will be ratified, I will have to pay for duty £5, being 10 per cent. of the costing price. But this is not the opinion of the Portuguese officials. They don't admit my assurance that this £50 is the price which I had to pay for the lot, but prefer to make out the value for them, and so find that this same lot is worth, in Angola, the costing price of £50 increased with expenses, insurance, and freight, say, £30, and besides 20 per cent. profit—say, in all, £96; so that the duty of 10 per cent. has become in the hands of the Portuguese an impost of 19½ per cent. (£19 12s.) on the original costing price. This is the manner of Portuguese calculating in Angola, and so they will do on the Congo, without a shadow of a doubt."

Enclosure No. 3.]

Extract from letter from a Gentleman recently returned from the Congo.

"I have recently returned home from the Congo River, by a Portuguese mail steamer. My attention was soon attracted to a number of blacks wearing tin tickets on their necks. Women, youths, and men, about 20 or 30, were always on the fore deck. I had with me a Congo lad, and from him learned that they were natives of Angola; they spoke the Mbunda language, and were going to San Thomé. They seemed to be well treated, and there was no appearance of misery; they were evidently making the best of a bad job.

"We lay off San Thomé for two days, within 100 yards of a Portuguese gunboat.

"On the second day my boy told me that a great number of Slaves had been sent ashore at dawn; he was sleeping on deck, and saw all. On leaving, the Slaves were hurriedly dressed in new garments which were basted together, not properly stitched. He had no proper idea of the number, but there were two lighters full.

"I then remembered that, just at the time mentioned, the steward had attracted my attention by persistently fussing about my cabin door, evidently watching. Throughout the voyage it was well apparent that English passengers were not welcome.

"I received confirmation of my boy's story from officials of the steamer, who assured me that it was constantly the case, and indeed every month, and estimated those put on shore that morning at one hundred and fifty. Some were always allowed on deck, the rest were below in the fore.

"I do not know whether any were put ashore at Principe, but when we were clear of that island, there were still on board four Kabinda Slaves bound for Bolama Bissagos Island, off Senegambia. I could not speak with them, for such action would be noted, but my boy talked with them. *They told me that they had been sold to a white man far away and were Slaves.* They were going from Angola, and knew the Mbunda or Angola language.

"It is therefore clear that the Slave-trade is carried on briskly to-day between the Portuguese Colonies. Perhaps the Portuguese do not call it by that name, but the poor creatures fully understand their condition, and do not mince matters: they use the plain hateful word, 'Slave.'

"I was informed, whilst on board, that in Angola there is scarcely any free labour. The plantations are almost entirely worked by Slave labour. A German planter on the Quanza River (Angola), however, stated that he always employed free labour, as it paid him better."

SIR FREDK. GOLDSMID'S EVIDENCE.

3, Observatory Avenue, Campden Hill,
April 25, 1884.

Dear Mr. Allen,—On the 15th November last I left St. Paulé, Loanda, to return to Europe, in the Portuguese Mail Steamer, "Angola." The day following, my attention was called by a fellow-passenger to a party of natives, men, women, and children squatted in the fore part of the ship, each bearing a ticket tied round the neck. There were, I understood, 60 of these, or more—though there might not have been so many above deck.

I was assured that these people were bought at low prices (from £4 to £5) at Benguela, and brought on as common labourers to St. Thomé, whence they seldom, if ever, returned. My impression of the poor creatures was thus noticed at the time in my diary: "If this be not Slave-traffic, I know not what it is." Four days later, when we were stationed at St. Thomé, I wrote:—"The *Slaves* seem to have been landed, though I hear there are some 17

still on board for Prince's Island." Perhaps I should not have written *Slaves*, but the word did not seem inappropriate in a private record. To my own mind the inference was truth.

Believe me to remain,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) F. J. GOLDSMID.

DOES SLAVERY EXIST IN THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES?

WE have translated the following from a leading article in the Portuguese newspaper *El Verdade*, published at St. Paul de Loando, South-West Coast of Africa:—"For years eloquent voices have been raised in the Portuguese Parliament, under feelings of outraged patriotism, in protest against the statement of the renowned British-African explorer, Mr. Cameron, who asserted to have witnessed the 'Slave-trade' in the Portuguese colonies. What will these distinguished orators, whose waste of burning patriotism and dazzling eloquence it is pitiable to contemplate, have to say when they are truthfully told that throughout the whole of the province of Angola Slaves are purchased and sold; that within a few paces distance of the palace of the Governor-General of Angola, and with his full knowledge, a public functionary ('o curador dos escravias') makes it his daily business to remove all impediments to the Slave-trade, and promotes the export of natives to the Portuguese province of San Thomé, by granting legal sanction to contracts, which are no contracts, and could never be admitted as such, inasmuch as they lack the first essential condition of all contracts—namely, the voluntary, clearly expressed, and indubitable consent of all contracting parties. It moves us deeply to have to confess and chronicle this grievous fact, but true patriotism, which ardently desires the promotion of real progress, development, and civilisation, may not shut its eyes to blemishes, shortcomings, or self-abasement, but, on the contrary, must, in universal condemnation, find its most efficacious remedy for the ills under which the Fatherland suffers and which it deplures. Though as fondly attached to our country as any one can be, we consider it nevertheless a sacred duty to clearly state that the 'solemn denial' with which our Parliament in strong and patriotic language has met the assertion of the brave Englishman, who

simply stated what he saw with his own eyes—that the 'denial,' we say, is the reverse of true, and indicates the distance which still separates the 'high authorities' from the real knowledge of the actual condition and requirements of the Portuguese colonies, so essential to their proper government. Oh, that a stop were put to this unrighteousness, which disguised under the garb of law, is still tolerated, and which, detestable as it is of itself, inspires still greater disgust by the cloak of hypocrisy which covers it."—*Glasgow Daily Mail*.

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE CONGO.

THE subjoined notification has been forwarded to the United States Government by the International Association of the Congo, and acknowledged:

The International Association of the Congo hereby declares that, by treaties with the legitimate Sovereigns in the basins of the Congo and of the Niadi-Kivillu, and in adjacent territories on the Atlantic, there has been ceded to it territory for the use and benefit of the Free States, established and being established under the care and supervision of the said Association in the said basins and adjacent territories, to which cession the said Free States of right succeed.

That the said International Association has adopted for itself, and for the said Free States, as their standard, the flag of the International African Association, being a blue flag with a golden star in centre.

That the said Association and the States have resolved to levy no Custom House duties upon goods or articles of merchandise imported into their territories, or brought by the route which has been constructed around the Congo Cataracts. This they have done with a view of enabling commerce to penetrate into Equatorial Africa.

That they guarantee to foreigners settling in their territories the right to purchase, sell, or lease lands or buildings situated therein, to establish commercial houses, and to there carry on trade, upon the sole condition that they shall obey the laws. They pledge themselves, moreover, never to grant to citizens of one nation any advantages without immediately

extending the same to the citizens of all other nations, and to do all in their power to prevent the Slave trade.

In testimony whereof, Henry S. Sanford, duly empowered thereof by the said Association, acting for itself and for the said Free States, has hitherto set his hand and affixed his seal, this 22nd day of April, 1884, in the City of Washington.

[Seal] (Signed) H. S. SANFORD.

Frederick T. Frelinghuysen, Secretary of State, duly empowered therefor by the President of the United States of America, and pursuant to the advice and consent of the Senate, heretofore given, acknowledges the receipt of the foregoing notification from the International Association of the Congo, and declares that, in harmony with the traditional policy of the United States, which enjoins a proper regard for the commercial interests of their citizens, while at the same time avoiding interferences with controversies between other Powers as well as alliances with foreign nations, the Government of the United States announces its sympathy with, and approval of, the humane and benevolent purposes of the International Association of the Congo, administering, as it does, the interests of the Free States there established, and will order the officers of the United States, both on land and sea, to recognise the flag of the International Association as the flag of a friendly Government.

In testimony whereof he has hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal, this 22nd day of April, A.D. 1884, in the City of Washington.

(Signed) FREDK. T. FRELINGHUYSEN.

[Seal]

In Executive Session, Senate of the United States, April 10, 1884.

Resolved—"That the Senate concurs in the views expressed by the President of the United States in his last annual Message to Congress, in reference to the interests of the United States in the settlement of the Congo country in Africa, and in the opening of that country to the free access of the people and lawful commerce of all other countries.

"And that it is the opinion of the Senate that the flag of the International Association should be recognised as the flag of a friendly Government."

(Attest) ANSON G. MCCOOK, Secretary.

By Chas. W. Johnson, Chief Clerk.

THE CONGO TREATY.

BY JACOB BRIGHT, M.P.

THE region with which this treaty with Portugal deals lies between 5 deg. 12 min. and 8 deg. South latitude on the South-West Coast of Africa. It embraces both banks of the Congo, and has become of extreme importance, owing to the knowledge we now possess of this greatest of African rivers, whose flood is said to freshen the surface of the ocean for seventy miles. Cargo-carrying vessels can, according to the statement of Liverpool merchants, ascend the Congo as far as Bull Island, 12 miles from the mouth, and here goods have to be transhipped for trade beyond. At Vivi, 115 miles, navigation is closed by rocks and cataracts. From Vivi to Stanley Pool, a distance of 200 miles, there is difficult communication, partly by land and partly by water, and then commences free navigation for nearly 1,000 miles. The river has large tributaries, also navigable, and the productive character of the country is said to be great. The present condition of things on the Lower Congo, this region which Portugal has long coveted, and her claim to which England has always stoutly resisted, is well described in a letter from Earl Granville to the Portuguese Minister, dated March 15, 1883. "On this coast many trading factories are established, of which a small minority only are Portuguese. They belong to British, French, German, and Dutch houses. They pay no dues or imposts, making only insignificant payments to native chiefs. Their vessels ply without hindrance in the rivers and along the coast. There is no obstacle to the free access of the traders to the interior. Missionaries also, irrespective of creed, are allowed perfect freedom in their work. It would be impossible then to agree to the imposition of burdens which do not now exist; . . . the freedom of trade and navigation of the River Congo should be absolute, involving exemption from all river dues or tolls; equality should be secured to missionaries of all creeds."

After this statement will it be believed that Her Majesty's Government has made a treaty with Portugal by which the contention of Lord Granville that the "freedom of trade should be absolute" has been abandoned, and

the "imposition of burdens which do not now exist" will take place? How far this treaty is a departure from the policy of preceding Governments can be easily shown. Lord Clarendon, in a despatch, dated November 26, 1853, says: "It is, therefore, both manifest and notorious that the African tribes which inhabit the line of coast claimed by the Portuguese, between latitudes 5 deg. 12 min. and 8 deg. are in reality independent, and the rights acquired by Portugal in virtue of priority of discovery at the end of the 15th century has long since lapsed as the Portuguese Government has neglected to occupy the countries discovered. In these circumstances the undersigned must reiterate the declaration of Her Majesty's Government that the interests of commerce imperiously compel the maintenance of the right of unrestricted intercourse with that part of the West African coast which is comprised between latitude 5 deg. 12 min. and 8 deg. S." Again, in 1860, when Portugal tried to seize Kinsembo, a village on the north of her present frontier, Lord John Russell wrote to the Portuguese Minister threatening war, and added "the interests of Portugal would be far better consulted by developing the resources of the vast territories which she already possesses in Africa than by seeking to extend a barren sovereignty over further tracts of country on that continent, which can only be acquired by violence and bloodshed." Lord Derby, in 1876, wrote that "the orders which were issued in 1856 to the commanders of Her Majesty's cruisers to oppose any attempt on the part of the Portuguese authorities to extend the dominions of Portugal north of Ambriz remain still in force."

This is the view which has been consistently maintained by every British Foreign Minister, and the reasons for the present change of policy ought, therefore, to be carefully examined. As stated in the treaty they are as follows:—1st, "To put an end to all difficulties relative to the rights of sovereignty over the districts at the mouth of the Congo." 2nd, "To provide for the complete extinction of the Slave-trade." 3rd, "To promote the development of commerce and civilisation in the African continent." The "difficulties relative to the rights of sovereignty," so far as Great Britain and Portugal are concerned, will naturally be put an end to

if we concede all she has claimed, and all we have hitherto firmly refused; but it remains to be seen how other Powers will regard this transaction. 2nd. The change of policy has been influenced by the desire of providing "for the complete extinction of the Slave-trade." To give increased territory to Portugal in the interest of African freedom is a new doctrine in this country. A year has seldom passed by without the British Government rebuking the Portuguese Government for conniving at the Slave-trade. It has been, indeed, said that the Slave-trade is the only trade for which the Portuguese have shown a marked aptitude. Lord Mayo last year described to me his journey in the steamship *Angola*, from Benguela to Lisbon, in company of a cargo of Slaves. He said that between Angola and the Island of St. Thomas there is a regular traffic in Slaves, and that official forms are made use of in order to conceal its character, and to enable the officers of the Government to reap some portion of the reward. Slaves are brought from the interior to Catumbella—they are called "Colonials." The price here is £7 a head. They are then sent in lighters to the Portuguese steamship at Benguela, thence to Loando, where official forms are gone through. They are assumed to have engaged themselves for five years' service. They are then shipped in the same steamer to the Island of St. Thomas. They are well treated on board, and decently clothed. Price at St. Thomas from £10 to £15; a pretty girl sells for more. They can be engaged by the planters at the office of Santa Anna, the capital of the island, and in this re-engagement they are not consulted. In the ship in which Lord Mayo sailed February last year there were 82 of these "Colonials" on board. They die early, and never see their own country again. In a despatch to Lord Granville from Mr., now Sir R., Morier, dated "Lisbon, April 25th, 1881," this statement occurs, "The first act of the new Cabinet in connection with colonial matters has been to recall Senhor Sarmento, the Governor-General of Mozambique, in disgrace. The crime of Senhor Sarmento consists in having not only admitted that there was Slave-trade from the Mozambique coast, but in having done good work in putting it down; he has fallen a victim to the intrigues of Senhor Machado

and the Geographical Society at Lisbon, whose object has been to make out that the Mozambique Slave-trade is a mere hallucination of Her Majesty's Consuls." I do not know where we could find greater credulity than that which would seem to exist in the Foreign Office, if they believe that anything on paper is likely to compel the Portuguese to suppress Slavery in Africa. In further elucidation of this subject, it is interesting to study the correspondence relating to the negotiations on this treaty—"Africa, No. 2, 1884"—and compare it with the result finally obtained in the treaty. Lord Granville, in a letter dated January 23, 1883, says:—"As regards Article V., which deals with the Slave-trade, I have to observe that the efforts which Her Majesty's Government are constantly making on the East Coast of Africa have not met with the success which would otherwise have attended them, owing to the disinclination of the Portuguese Government to allow Her Majesty's cruisers to operate against Slave-traders within the territorial waters of Portugal." The results finally obtained and embodied in Article XII. give permission to Her Majesty's ships to enter all places "*where no Portuguese authorities shall be established.*"

I now come to the last of the three reasons which have led to this remarkable treaty, viz., "To promote the development of commerce and civilization on the African continent." The world is familiar with the hollowness and insincerity of diplomatic utterances, but it would be difficult to find a stronger case of insincerity than in the document from which I quote. The Portuguese are to develop commerce and civilisation on the Congo! There has been a considerable development of commerce on the Congo, and all the world outside the British Foreign Office knows the reason why. It is because the Portuguese are not there. A similar case of the enormous advantage of the absence of the Portuguese is to be found on the East Coast of Africa. Some 100 years ago the Arabs took away much territory, including Zanzibar, from Portugal, and now the trade of Zanzibar, under native rule, is eight or ten times that of Mozambique, which has the advantage of civilised Portuguese rule.

Portugal may have the desire but she lacks the power to rule distant countries. She has a debt out of all proportion to her means. The "Statesman's Year-Book" says: "The

interest on the public debt of Portugal has remained frequently unpaid. Portions of the national debt have also been repudiated at various periods." The Budget for the last fifty years has always ended with a deficit. A people in this insolvent condition, so incapable at home, are to be assisted by England to take possession of new territory in order that they may perform duties there which they have signally failed to perform in the vast African territories which they already possess. Portugal has at least 1,000 miles of seaboard on the west coast of Africa, and an equal extent of country on the east coast. Whatever she has done in these provinces to discourage Slavery has been done under compulsion. Whatever trade there is exists in spite of heavy duties, unusual local taxation and vexatious exactions and interference on the part of ignorant and corrupt officials. Angola has been in the possession of Portugal for 400 years, but it has no public works, Within nine miles of its capital, Loanda, there is splendid water. It is still brought to the town in casks, and sold to the people at a high price. There are almost no roads. The people have, up to this day, to carry goods mainly on their heads, as they have done in times past.

Let me invite the attention of your readers to the Portuguese Province of Mozambique, as that seems to be, commercially, a model province in the eyes of our Foreign Office. Should the treaty be unfortunately ratified, the trade of the Congo is to have the Mozambique tariff with similar officials to put it in force as are to be found on the Mozambique coast. This so-called low tariff dates from 1877, and since that period every English house but one has withdrawn. That one remains under peculiar conditions. The principal of one of these houses which ceased to trade with Mozambique was heard to say, "I might bear the tariff, but the local taxes and obstructions in addition are too much for me." Mercantile houses have to pay £1,000 or £1,500 a year there for the right to exist, and employes in these houses have each to pay a tax of £15 or £20 a year. I am told by English officials on the east coast that merchants have to bribe Portuguese officials to be allowed to deal with natives, and that natives have to bribe the same officials in order to be allowed to deal with merchants.

me of the Portuguese officials are convicts,

and nearly all the Portuguese residents. Most of these are transported for life, which means that many of them have committed murder. This is explained from the fact that capital punishment is practically abolished in Portugal. I will not dwell upon the demoralisation which is the result of this unfortunate state of things. It has been described to me, but I will not describe it to your readers. To show the utter incapacity of Portugal to be of service in the provinces which are already called hers, I should say that she knows nothing of the Mozambique country beyond the coast and the banks of the rivers, and that her people cannot go a mile inland without risking their lives in a region which they have professed to rule for three hundred years. The treaty then, if ratified by the House of Commons, gives both banks of the Lower Congo to Portugal. This little country, which cannot pay its debts at home, which fails conspicuously "to promote the development of commerce and civilisation abroad," is to be placed by England, for some inscrutable reason, over a new and important territory just at a time when its commercial value has been made clear, and that by the enterprise of nearly every country but Portugal. The unsuspecting inhabitants of the Congo, the many chiefs there with whom we have treaties and who have kept faith with us in all circumstances, are to have thrust upon them the Mozambique tariff, the Portuguese officials, and the Portuguese convicts. These chiefs have not been consulted. They are so infinitely beneath us and those with whom we are conspiring that we sweep away their immemorial rights without a moment's hesitation. On previous occasions when the Portuguese have made encroachments and dispossessed the natives there has been resistance and bloodshed. Is it possible that England in this new partnership may be found helping the Portuguese at the point of the bayonet to establish their rule?

When the merchants protest, as they do universally, men of every country, they are told that they are to have the mildest of all tariffs, with no duty higher than 10 per cent., that the treaty imposes this limit, and that it cannot be exceeded. This gives no sense of security to the merchant. He knows that in Angola there are excessive local taxes, that there is an income tax of 10 per cent., a

property tax of 10 per cent., a house duty of 6 per cent., and a duty on the transfer of property of 6 per cent., and he knows that whenever it suits them the Portuguese will have the right to demand these taxes on the Congo, and others which they might choose to invent. At Ambriz—a port on the northern boundary of Angola—they boast of a tariff of 6 per cent., but they have recently added the following taxes—a public works tax, no fixed amount, but arbitrary, as required; a 5 per cent. income-tax on such amount of income as the Portuguese official thinks the trader ought to pay; a 5 per cent. property tax; a 3 per cent. house duty; a tax of 6 per cent. on the transfer of property and a licence tax of 20 dollars on every trading firm and on every shop or store. The Customs duty is levied on the valuation of property delivered in Ambriz and the valuation is often arbitrary. Goods of British traders are constantly seized and detained for weeks and months until too late for the season. The English Consul is frequently sent for, but goes up very seldom. He cannot speak Portuguese, which greatly impairs his usefulness. Every English house, except one, has abandoned Ambriz. They have gone to Kinsembo, seven miles north, where Portuguese civilisation does not exist, but where it is about to be established by Her Majesty's Government.

The British and other merchants on the Congo have an anxious future before them. On the faith of the policy of preceding English Ministers, they have invested there large sums of money, and by much thought and labour have established important businesses. To be handed over to the Portuguese is the worst fate that could have befallen them, and is the last thing they could have foreseen. Their trade will, of course, shrink in amount, and will be conducted with a degree of friction which will add greatly to their anxieties. But there are anxieties of another kind. Twenty-eight years ago the Portuguese sent an armed force and took possession of Ambriz, the most northerly town of the Angola province. The natives had to submit, but before they did so they destroyed the factories in the neighbourhood. The destruction of factories on the Congo would be a more serious thing. If it should take place will England or Portugal be held

responsible? Will it be in the power of the merchants to obtain redress?

If this treaty should not be acknowledged by other Powers, the state of things will be interesting, and may be serious. If France, for example, should decline to acknowledge it, she will insist that her merchants shall have free intercourse with the natives of the Congo as heretofore. English ships would then have to trade under the French flag. The feeling in France has not of late been very friendly to England. This treaty does not tend to make the two countries more friendly. The transaction is regarded in Paris with surprise and dissatisfaction, and those who have the best means of judging believe that France will not allow her commercial interests to be prejudiced by this treaty. If there be any reality in one of the reasons put forth to explain the conduct of Her Majesty's Government, viz., that a civilised authority is wanted on the Congo, justice and common sense would say that the countries which have the chief commerce there ought first to be consulted as to what should be done. England, France, Holland, and Germany are the chief traders. Each one of these has a moral right to be consulted in the settlement of the Congo. France at this moment feels in respect to this somewhat shabby piece of diplomacy exactly as England would feel if, behind her back, and with as much secrecy as possible, an important affair in which she had a strong interest were being settled without her.

One effect of this treaty is to call attention to the Foreign Office. In our commercial centres its character is being freely discussed. All will agree that it is represented by men of ability in the two Houses of Parliament. Its permanent officials have great experience of a certain kind—I mean Foreign Office experience. Is there, however, in this department a single mind which has had the wider experience necessary to enable a man to free himself from the traditions of diplomacy and statecraft, and so to deal with this question in the real interests of the country? If there were a man at the Foreign Office, with, I will say, half the practical knowledge and common sense of the late Mr. Cobden, would he in order to establish an authority on the Congo bring in a people who have no authority in their own provinces? Would he have ex-

pected the Portuguese "to promote the development of commerce" in a region where commerce has sprung up and largely increased because Portuguese dominion has there been kept at bay? The King of the Belgians has been tenderly dealt with by our Government. The Upper Congo, which some day may have, but which now has no commercial importance, is carefully guarded from the touch of the Portuguese. English merchants ask why the Lower Congo, whose commercial importance grows daily, owing to the easy communication between it and Europe, should be subjected to this blighting influence?

GENERAL GORDON'S PROCLAMATION.

THE Blue-Book recently presented to Parliament (Egypt Nos. 9 and 12, 1884) contains the correspondence respecting this much discussed proclamation by General Gordon, from which we reprint the most important. As we have always supposed, the proclamation was issued as a measure of self-defence, and in order to conciliate the tribes of the Soudan, some of whom were under the impression that General Gordon was coming up armed with full powers to deprive them of their Slaves. As by the Convention of 1877, the sale of Slaves in the Soudan was perfectly legal until 1889 General Gordon explained that he was not going to forestall the date at which the Convention would come into force; and as the Soudan was about to be given up by Egypt, the probabilities were that it would never come into force at all. It must be borne in mind that General Gordon only explained the existing law, and that he had not gone to the Soudan in order to alter it. We have frequently pointed out that the Con-

vention does not abolish *Slavery*, it merely prevents the sale of Slaves from one person to another. Anyone holding Slaves could continue to hold them as long as he pleased, even were the Convention to come into force. But he could not sell them. This point has been generally very much misunderstood. Slave-hunting did not come within the scope of the Proclamation, and subsequent letters from General Gordon show that he is as strongly opposed to this abomination as ever he was. It cannot be denied that General Gordon has little faith in the possibility of carrying out the terms of the Convention, either in the Soudan or in Egypt proper. Without expressing our opinion upon that point, we would simply refer to what we have already written on another page in this number, respecting the passing of an Act similar to that already carried out in India, annulling the legal status of Slavery. We believe that this would be found to be more efficacious than a dozen Conventions.

"Sir E. Baring to Earl Granville.

"(Received February 21, 1 p.m.)

"Cairo, February 21, 1884, 11.2 a.m.

"(Telegraphic)

"Your Lordship's telegram of 19th. Power has not yet telegraphed to me text of Gordon's Proclamation, but *Times* correspondent has shown me text which will appear in *Times* to-day or to-morrow.

"Gordon telegraphs as follows :—

"Several telegrams have been sent from press about what I said respecting Slaves. The question asked me was this : Did I insist on liberation of Slaves in 1884 as per Treaty, 1877 ? I answered that the Treaty would not be enforced in 1889 by me, considering the determination of Her Majesty's Government respecting Soudan was a self-evident fact. The

question is one of Slave-holding, not of Slave-hunting, and, in my opinion, that Treaty of 1877 will never be carried out in Cairo as to Slave-holding.'

"Sir E. Baring to Earl Granville.

"(Received by telegraph, February 21.)

"Cairo, February 21, 1884.

"My Lord,—It is only natural that the Proclamation issued by General Gordon at Khartoum should have caused a good deal of surprise in England. But in reality his declaration with regard to the buying and selling of Slaves is of very little practical importance, and it is easy enough to understand his reasons for making it.

"It was obvious from the first that a revival of Slavery in the Soudan would result from the policy of abandonment. Nothing that General Gordon can do at Khartoum will prevent a revival ; knowing that he is powerless to stop Slavery in the future, General Gordon evidently intends using it as a concession to the people which will strengthen his position in other matters.

"I consider that he has succeeded admirably so far, and I sincerely trust that he will be allowed full liberty of action to complete the execution of his general plans. I have informed him that my personal opinion is entirely in his favour, and that I will give him all the support in my power.

"As to the best means of preventing Slavery, the subject will have to be considered carefully and discussed afresh, in view of the altered circumstances of the situation. I propose shortly to address your Lordship upon it.

"I have, &c.,

"(Signed) E. BARING."

"Sir E. Baring to Earl Granville.

"(Received March 1, 1 p.m.)

"(Telegraphic) Cairo, March 1, 1884.

"Colonel Stewart writes from Berber on the 11th :—

"Deputation of Notables came to inquire whether the Treaty which had been printed and published by General Gordon in November, 1877, by which all Slaves ultimately freed in 1889, was in his programme.

"General Gordon, knowing utter futility of saying 'Yes,' replied 'No,' and published a Proclamation to this effect. It is probable that this Proclamation interested and pleased people more than *anything* else.'

"TEXT OF PROCLAMATION OF GENERAL GORDON TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE SOUDAN.

"Sir E. Baring to Earl Granville.

"(Received February 22.)

"(Telegraphic) Cairo, February 21, 1884.

"Mr. Power telegraphs following Proclamation signed by General Gordon :—

" 'To all the people my sincerest desire is to adopt course of action which shall lead to public tranquility, and knowing your regret at severe measures taken by Government for suppression of Slave Traffic, and seizure and punishment of all concerned according to Convention and Decrees, I confer upon you these rights, that henceforth none shall interfere with your property ; whoever has Slaves shall have full right to their services and full control over them. This Proclamation is a proof of my clemency towards you.' "

DR. GERHARD ROHLFS ON THE FUTURE OF EGYPT AND GENERAL GORDON'S PROCLAMATION.

"What is then the future of Egypt? It could not rest on Arabi. Arabi meant as much as the intolerance of narrow fanaticism, Egyptian darkness, penetrated by no light of Europe. Then away with Arabi! But what is to take his place, is it an enlarged, but not improved edition of Arabi—the Mahdi." "All that was good, all that the Europeans, that Ismail, that the Turkish Sultan, who is counted now a servant of the Europeans and unworthy the Caliphate, desired the abolition of Slavery, the equality of all men and of all confessions, all these were the causes of the Egyptian Soudan revolt. It is to be hoped that the English and their champion of the day, Gordon, who has done so great service, not only to the Soudan, but to humanity, by the suppression of the Slave-trade, may succeed yet in putting down such a Mahdi Messias, and in raising the banner of culture and progress. If not, Slavery will again break forth far and wide, like weeds in a neglected garden. Has Gordon been unfaithful to his mission of civilization? An outcry was raised at the news that Gordon had permitted in a proclamation the continuance of Slavery in the Soudan. But it was forgotten that it was

a time of war, not of peace, and that one cannot root out what has been for centuries by a word or by a stroke of a pen. Besides there was a treaty between England and Egypt that in Egypt itself Slavery was to cease only in 1884, and in the Soudan in 1889. This would have been practical in Egypt Proper in 1884, but for the revolt of Arabi and the Mahdi, and in the Soudan possibly in 1889. If England conquers, the treaties may stand, or as broken by the rebels they may at once be annulled, and the abolition of Slavery decreed; of course the peace-abiding Mohammedan tribes must make an exception, for whoever may have bought Slaves in present circumstances, looking to the year of emancipation as 1889 would demand his purchase money back. Gordon was certainly not unfaithful in his proclamation to his principles as to the removal of Slavery.

We cannot doubt the overthrow of the Mohammedan revolt by a Great European Power, even if there be some reverses. We shall not enquire if there were mistakes at first in the British conduct of the war. We cannot blame them if they yielded, somewhat surprised at the stormy rush of the enemy, who resembles rather a nervous, excited race-horse than a well-broken, strongly-built charger. But there ought to have been more energy and effort. The affair rested alone upon England, if not by the formal, yet by the real assent of Europe. In consequence, England had all the advantage or loss accruing from it. If the enemy must be overcome, then let it be done with all the force and all the means possible. A great stroke may cost much money, but this will be vastly more if it be frittered away in single movements backwards and forwards. The great expedition of the British under Napier to Magdala was one of unceasing Forwards."

Africa, May, 1884.

SLAVERY IN EGYPT.

IN our last number we published a Despatch from Sir Evelyn Baring respecting Slavery in Egypt. We quite agree with him that "if an enactment were passed similar to Act V. of 1843 of the Indian Legislature, a blow would be struck at the

system of Slavery in Egypt which would almost certainly prove fatal."

Our only point of difference is that Sir Evelyn Baring considers that "it would be most unwise to attempt at present the introduction of so radical a reform."

We have long maintained that the introduction of an Act abolishing the legal status of Slavery in Egypt would gradually and effectively, and without any undue interference with the customs and rights of the Mohammedan population, put an end to Slavery.

From a memorial presented to Earl Granville, in June, 1880, by a large and influential Deputation from the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, we reprint the following clauses, together with a short extract from an able article in the *Fortnightly Review*, by the Rt. Hon. Sir Bartle Frere.

FROM THE MEMORIAL OF THE
ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

That the Khedive of Egypt be urged to amend the Slave-trade Treaty concluded with England by his predecessor, so far as to abolish immediately the legal status of Slavery in Egypt. This measure, while involving no violent or sudden disruption of the social or industrial conditions of the people, would, in the opinion of the Committee, contribute most of all to the speedy cessation of Slave-hunts, and of Slave-trading in those regions of Eastern Africa.

In support of this view they refer with confidence to the Act of May, 1843, by which all the Slaves within the territories of the East India Company were unconditionally and immediately set free. Probably more than a million of Slaves were thus emancipated from a bondage which had been continued for centuries, and yet none of the dreaded results of so great a change ever took place. On the contrary, the status of the people was improved, and such would, no doubt, be the case in Egypt, if Slavery were to cease.

FROM SIR BARTLE FRERE'S ARTICLE.

As regards the law applicable to Slavery, there is no necessity for awaiting the result of the labours of any Commission. Little would be necessary beyond one short law to the same effect as Act V. of 1843 of the Government of India, above quoted, and Slavery would be abolished in Egypt as effectually and with as little disturbance of the relations between capital and labour as has been experienced in India. It might be necessary for some time to watch the administration of the law in Slavery

cases, but no pressure would be required, save in the case of harsh or bad masters; and to them the legal pressure would be applied so gradually and indirectly as to minimise the risk of rendering the law unpopular.

On the lowest estimate formed by Sir Bartle Frere, not less than nine millions of Slaves became free in virtue of this Act, and this with little if any dislocation of the industrial relations of the people. And why could not the same system be equally well applied to Egypt?

AMENITIES OF PARLIAMEN- TARY LANGUAGE.

WHEN anything rude or insulting was said it used to be called "*unparliamentary*." We fear the reverse will soon be the appropriate term, and the word "*parliamentary*" will include all that is ungentlemanly and personal. The junior member for Newcastle spoke of the member for Bradford, and of the Anti-Slavery Society, during the Vote of Censure on the 13th of May in the following polite (?) terms:

If there were one person in the whole world who was more responsible than another for not sending Zebuhr it was his right hon. friend the member for Bradford. (Hear.) His right hon. friend might say that the Government made up their mind before he delivered his famous and most powerful speech. On the morning of the 10th of March the Anti-Slavery Society blew a tremendous blast on their trumpet, and on the evening of the 10th of March his right hon. friend in a speech blew a blast on his trumpet, and it was on the day after that Lord Granville made up his mind that it was impossible to send Zebuhr. The Government failed before these ferocious philanthropists. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) Whether they were right or wrong he did not say. He did not judge them harshly. A Jingo in a drab coat—a crusader in a broad-brimmed hat was no joke. (Laughter.) He admitted that when his right hon. friend the member for Bradford rallied an audience by playing his philanthropic melodies on a great Jingo drum he was a very formidable as well as a very truculent figure. (Renewed laughter.) The counsels of thoroughly responsible people in Egypt were overborne by the clamour of a body of bondholders, sentimentalists, humanitarians, and of the members of the distinguished "society" of candid "friends." ("Hear, hear," and laughter.)

MOROCCO.

THE visit of the Treasurer and the Secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society to that country was hailed with much pleasure by many of the European residents, who have long wished that a little light should be let in upon the nefarious Slave-trade, prison, and other abuses, which have so long disgraced the rule of the Sultan of Morocco. The two spirited weekly papers, which are now published in Tangier, thus allude to the visit of the Anti-Slavery delegates:—

AL MOGHREB ALAKSA.

(*Anglicé, The Far West*)

12th March, 1884.

"We have been favoured by a visit to this orlorn corner of the earth from Charles H. Allen, Esq., F.R.G.S., Secretary to the Anti-Slavery Society, and Joseph Allen, Esq., Treasurer of the same. While tendering our best wishes to these gentlemen, we trust that their short stay amongst us will be the means of enlightening the people of England, through their valuable monthly paper, *The Anti-Slavery Reporter*, as regards the present state of things in Morocco."

LE REVEIL DU MAROC.

19th March, 1884.

(Translation.)

"Tangier has just been visited by Messrs. Chas. H. Allen and Joseph Allen, Secretary and Treasurer of the Anti-Slavery Society of London, commissioned to investigate the conditions of Slavery and the Slave-trade in Morocco, in order to make a detailed report to their Society. Before leaving our town they had an interview on this subject with the Minister of Great Britain, of which we shall probably soon learn the result. . . . These gentlemen are very fortunate in being able to announce to the Anti-Slavery Society that the Minister of France, with the approval of his Government, has just prohibited all Moorish or other French subjects from buying

or selling, or from holding Slaves. It is to be hoped that the impressions and information which the Messrs. Allen have obtained in Tangier in regard to the infamous Slave-traffic, which constantly draws forth indignant protests from the local press, will hasten the extinction of this traffic, for which we have so long pleaded. We scarcely think that the national *amour propre* of John Bull will long permit him to be outstripped in the path of emancipation in Morocco by other nations. . . ."

A report of the visit of the Treasurer and Secretary will shortly be published. Although unable to see the actual sale of Slaves in the street, since owing to the outcry made in England these sales are now conducted with great secrecy, they were told that as many Slaves are sold as ever.

The editors of the two papers above noted inform us that on an average, between 200 and 300 Slaves are annually sold in the streets of Tangier, and much larger numbers in the more remote seaports and towns. Special care was taken that the Anti-Slavery visitors should not witness any actual sales of human beings, but His Excellency Sir John Hay admitted that the sales went on much as usual.

ABOLITIONIST ACTION OF FRANCE.

During the visit of the Treasurer and Secretary to Morocco they were confidentially informed that the Government of France was about to take a very important step forward in the cause of abolition. This step has now been taken. The French Minister having issued an edict, compelling all natives of Morocco who have accepted protection from

France, to emancipate immediately all their Slaves and to withdraw entirely from the traffic in human beings.

This edict applies also to all persons of whatever nation holding any office under the French flag. Sir John Hay has since informed us that he has induced all Moors in his service, or in that of Her Majesty's Consul at Tangier, to manumit their Slaves. His Excellency did not know whether the British Consular offices on the western coast had followed this example, but he intended to submit to Her Majesty's Government whether it would not be right to enforce such a decree. We are very glad to find that Sir John Drummond Hay has taken this important step, but we cannot help deeply regretting that the Government of England has not taken the initiative in the cause of emancipation in Morocco.

WOMEN FLOGGING IN MOROCCO.

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)

TANGIER, *April 25.*

"In the early part of last year," Esther Amar states, "I was employed as servant in the family of Isaac Benzaquen, of Casablanca, but lodged in the house of Abraham Shueeri, a Jewish schoolmaster, who is a married man, with a daughter. One night I had gone to bed and had been asleep some time, when I was awakened by Moorish soldiers breaking open the house door, and opening the door of my room, I was at once arrested. I noticed with the soldiers a man named Amiel, the interpreter of the English Vice-Consul. It was Amiel who ordered the soldiers to arrest me. The owner of the house protested against the arrest, and endeavoured to exclude Amiel and the soldiers, who had forced their way in. Amiel threatened that if Shueeri interfered, he should be arrested also. They dragged me off to prison; they would not allow me to dress myself. I was then thrust into a Moorish female prison, a small, unroofed enclosure, where I passed the night without bed-covering, light, or protection from the

weather, in company with five other women whom I recognised as persons of bad character. I was not informed what was the charge against me. At daybreak my mother, who had been told of my arrest, came to prison with some clothes for me; she then hurried off to the house of Solomon Benabu, who is under Spanish protection, and who is partner in business with my employer, in order that she might try to effect my release; but while she was away I was taken with the other five women before the Pasha. Amiel was there, but no charge was preferred against me, nor was there any trial, and I was put under no examination. Two of the women were flogged before me; they roared during their punishment. Then the soldiers laid me on the ground, face downwards, in front of the Pasha. One soldier held my hands and another my feet. Some soldiers then stood on each side of me. I was so frightened and confused at the time I cannot tell exactly how many, but I think there were three on each side. Each soldier held in his hands a plaited leather thong. The men then commenced to lash me. They struck me in quick succession one after another, and I screamed with the pain.

"After some time the Pasha asked Amiel if the punishment was not sufficient, but Amiel told him to continue. They continued to flog me until I was bleeding. While I was being lashed Benabu, my employer's partner, appeared; he implored the Pasha and Amiel to stop the flogging, asserting that I was of good character, and perfectly innocent of any crime. Amiel insisted that the punishment should continue. While I was being flogged the Pasha counted the strokes. I was in such pain and terror I cannot remember the number I received, but I was told afterwards that it was 500 lashes. Several Moors and Jews were standing about. Benabu made every effort to stop my punishment; he remonstrated with, and even struck, Amiel. He was then turned out by the soldiers, and I suffered to the end. Then the rest of the women were flogged. They were not beaten so severely as I was. The punishment took place in an open enclosure. While we were being flogged my mother came to the gate and kept calling out for admission, but she was driven off by the soldiers with sticks. When we had all been flogged we were taken back to the same enclosure where we had passed the night. Here my mother was allowed to see me, and she dressed my wounds.

And now let me ask her Majesty's Government and the English people if it is their desire that the matter should rest here, and that the poor tortured, outraged creature should have no redress. I am informed that Sir John Drummond Hay, the English Minister at Tangier, on the matter being officially reported to him by the American Consul, sent an order to Mr. Lapeen to detain the man Amiel at Casablanca. Yet, as a matter of fact, Amiel was allowed to leave that place, and he arrived

in Tangier, whence he started for Palestine. After a short residence there, probably when he thought the matter had blown over, he returned to Casablanca. And now comes the strangest part of this disgraceful history. His name was placed on the list of English protected subjects there, thus gaining him the protection of England against the operation of Moorish law. It is said this was done in order that he might attend to his business; but I would ask, should Amiel's commercial prosperity have been the first consideration with those who protected him? What about the girl? What about the honour of the English name? Are we to be branded as women floggers, or as the supporters of women floggers? Is the terror of the English flag to be invoked in order to compel recalcitrant pashas to wield the lash over the writhing bodies of wretched women?

The Globe, May 5, 1884.

If one half of this story be true, it is evidence that Morocco is indeed an "Augean stable," as described to us not long ago by Sir John Drummond Hay, K.C.B., H.B.M., Minister Plenipotentiary in Morocco. As the brutal wretch Amiel enjoys "British protection," we should think he justly merits the protection of British prison walls. Can nothing be done to punish such brutes? Has Her Majesty's Minister no power?

SLAVERY IN MOROCCO.

A Blue-book, containing a large quantity of correspondence and a number of reports relative to the Slave-trade, has been presented to Parliament. Amongst the papers are the following letters, which have been communicated to the Foreign Office by Mr. Horace P. White, Acting Consul General at Tangier:—

"ACTING CONSUL GENERAL WHITE TO MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI-EL-MUKHTAR.
(Translation.)
(After usual compliments.)

"Tangier, August 11, 1883.

"It is not unknown to you that the British nation has ever taken the deepest interest in regard to Slavery, and that it has employed its utmost efforts to obtain its abolition in every land.

"Not only did it expend vast sums of money in the abolition of Slavery in those of its Colonies where it has formerly existed,

but it has incessantly exerted itself to obtain the same result in foreign countries.

"Owing in great measure to the influence of the British Government, Slavery has been abolished in almost every civilised country throughout the world, but, unhappily, it continues to exist in this Empire, to the prejudice of its good name in foreign lands.

"In the interest of humanity, and confiding in the well-known benevolence, wisdom, and clemency of the Sultan, Her Majesty's Government has directed me to make a friendly and earnest appeal to His Majesty, and to beg His Majesty to consider whether the time has not come when His Majesty will be able to place himself on a level with other civilised Rulers, by taking steps to abolish Slavery within his dominions.

"Her Majesty's Government are well aware of the difficulty which the Government of the Sultan may meet in dealing with a custom so long established, but the same difficulty has been met and overcome by other Mussulman Sovereigns.

"His Majesty may feel assured that any steps taken by him in this direction would be welcomed, not only by Her Majesty's Government and by the British nation, but in civilised countries throughout the world, and would render His Majesty's name for ever illustrious.

"On the other hand, the position of His Majesty's Empire, bordering on the Mediterranean, if no effort is made to combat the evil of Slavery, cannot fail to become daily more intolerable in the eyes of all nations whatever may be their religious creed.

"In instructing me to make the present communication, Her Majesty's Government are animated by the sincere desire to increase the welfare of the Sultan and his dominions, and by the firm belief that the object they have at heart is in accordance with the truest interests of Morocco.

"I have to request that you communicate this letter to His Majesty the Sultan.

(Signed) "HORACE P. WHITE."

"MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI-EL-MUKHTAR TO ACTING CONSUL GENERAL WHITE.
(Translation.)

"August 28, 1883.

"We have received your letter on the subject of Slavery, in which you state that your Government, animated by its goodwill towards

us, had directed you to make to us in a friendly manner certain suggestions that you indicate and explain, and that your Government is aware of the difficulty of the matter, as Slavery has been established in this country from ancient times.

"We communicated your letter to His Shereefian Majesty, who has taken into consideration all that you state. His Majesty replied that he is well aware that your illustrious Government has always been most friendly towards him and his predecessors, now in glory, and that they desire and seek the welfare of his Government and subjects, and that they ward off from them what is evil, and ever advise what is beneficial, and that their counsels always prove to be good. They are thanked for this, and may their glory and greatness increase !

"His Majesty further said that, with regard to this matter, the only obstacle to the abolition of Slavery is that known to your Government—viz., the difficulty you refer to. It would endanger us with our subjects, for it touches not only customs alone, but also religion. This Empire is not as other countries, which are civilised, and whose inhabitants dwell in cities; they (the inhabitants of Morocco) are mostly Bedouins and nomads, and do not always occupy the same place, nor do they remain in the same circumstances, but change with every wind. They cannot be bound by anything; and it is very difficult for them to forsake their customs—much more so to forsake what concerns their religion. They do not even obey what is ordered them—they obey in words, but not in deeds. If their obedience in acts is required, troops and an army must be sent to them until they obey, though with repugnance, and then when the troops are withdrawn they revert to their customs. This is their custom from ancient time.

"Our Lord, may God render Him victorious, bears this subject in mind, and it is a matter of the deepest interest to His Majesty. We pray God to direct him in the right path and to assist him in it.

(Signed) "MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI-EL-MUKHTAR."

This answer is most unsatisfactory, and the religious objections, moreover, are not true.—[Ed. Reporter.]

HOME FOR FREED WOMEN SLAVES, CAIRO.

MEETING AT THE MANSION HOUSE.

A meeting was held at the Mansion House on April 22nd, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, to form a committee in London for co-operating with a committee in Cairo, which is seeking to provide a home in that city for freed women Slaves. The provisional London committee was composed of Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P., Sir T. Fowell Buxton, and Mr. Edmund Sturge, the movement being under the auspices of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society and the Aborigines' Protection Society, who desire to aid the committee in Cairo, of which Sir Evelyn Baring is president. Amongst those present were The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, and Miss Fowler, the Rev. Donald Fraser, D.D., the Rev. J. H. Worsley (the College, Bromley), the Rev. Dr. Ginsburg, Dr. Leitner, Mr. A. Egmont Hake, Major Spencer, the Hon. Mrs. William Ashley, the Hon. Elizabeth Monck, the Right Hon. W. E. and Mrs. Forster, the Hon. Colonel Vereker, Professor R. K. Douglas, Major-General Sir F. J. Goldsmid, Sir T. F. Buxton, Bart., Mr. C. S. Salmon (late Colonial Secretary of Gold Coast), Senator Victor Schœlcher, Mrs. Arthur Arnold, Mrs. Sheldon Amos, Mr. Thomas Fowell Buxton, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Bunting, the Right Rev. Bishop Disney, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Hamilton Gordon, Mr. Edmund Sturge (Chairman of the Anti-Slavery Society), Mr. Wylde (late of the Foreign Office), Mr. T.

P. Bunting, Sir William McArthur, K.C.M.G., M.P., Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Chesson, Mr. Arthur Pease, M.P., Rev. F. Storrs Turner, Captain Crawford, Mr. James Clarke (*Christian World*), Dr. Gompolides, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Allen, Mr. E. Harrison, Mr. H. Head, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Allen, the Misses Allen, Mr. A. J. Allen, Mr. J. E. Teall, and many other ladies and gentlemen.

The LORD MAYOR, in opening the proceedings, called on the hon. secretary to read letters.

Mr. CHESSON, one of the hon. secs. of the Meeting Committee, said he had received letters from various noblemen and gentlemen unable to be present. Lord Granville wrote: "I most heartily wish success to your movement, but it is impossible for me to promise to attend at the Mansion House." The Archbishop of Canterbury regretted that absence in the country "would prevent him from having the pleasure of taking part in the proceedings." Cardinal Manning said that "the aim and purpose of the meeting I share with all my heart; whatever else may be the result of our Egyptian policy, I hope that a final blow may be struck at this inhuman Slave-trade and Slavery." Lord Laurence wrote: "I wish to express my entire sympathy with the proposed Home, and regret exceedingly that I cannot attend." Letters of sympathy were also received from the Bishop of Carlisle, Lord Napier of Magdala, Sir J. H. Kennaway, M.P., Canon Liddon, Sir Charles Warren, and others, some enclosing cheques for the home.

The LORD MAYOR, in drawing attention to the importance of the subject which had drawn together so interested an attendance, incidentally alluded to a visit which he had paid to Egypt thirty years ago, and to the spectacle which he witnessed in the Slave market at Alexandria, where girls were offered for sale. They must all feel that the projected home at Cairo would be a most valuable adjunct to the efforts of those who were endeavouring to put an end to Slavery in Egypt, and he believed that the object for which they were assembled would commend

itself to the hearty support of the public. All would agree with the hope expressed by Cardinal Manning in the letter which had been read to the meeting, that whatever else might be the result of the present position in Egypt, a blow might be struck at the inhuman Slave-trade and Slavery. (Cheers.) Where this blow was struck, however, it would be the duty of all humane persons to help in providing means that the position of the freed Slaves should not be worse than Slavery. (Cheers.)

Mr. W. E. FORSTER, M.P., moved the first resolution, viz:—"That this meeting, recognising the urgent claims of the emancipated Slave population in Egypt to the generous sympathy of the British public, desires to express its hearty approval of the proposal made by Sir Evelyn Baring and the committee in Cairo to establish a home for freed women Slaves in that city, and at the same time pledges itself to support the movement by every means in its power." He said that the Lord Mayor certainly had the advantage of him, having been in Egypt, and having seen a Slave market. He had not such a scene dwelling in his memory, but he had been brought up amongst people who cared about Slavery and all Slavery questions since he was a child, and he now felt strongly on the matter before the meeting. It was not necessary to dwell on the evils of Slavery and the Slave-trade; all he had got to do was to convince the meeting that the institution they wished to establish was one which would be of real service in the cause of emancipation. He had been asked to move the first resolution, partly because he had taken part in establishing the home, and also on account of the absence, which he much regretted, of the Earl of Shaftesbury. They had just received a letter from the noble Earl expressing his regret that, much as he desired to be present, he was unable to be at the Mansion House in time. He had also a letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury, who said:—"It is indeed a good cause which you will have to plead at the Mansion House, and I most sincerely wish it was possible for me to be with you. I have had a conversation with Mrs. Sheldon Amos on the need and the remedy, and one can only trust there may be no lack of help to provide the means for carrying out the object. As far as I am able, I will subscribe, but my engage-

ments will not allow me to be present." The reason why they were so earnest about this home was that they were informed by friends at Cairo who knew how the matter stood, that unless some such home was provided, it would be impossible to make use of the present Egyptian laws in favour of manumission so far as they went. Legally, it was not very difficult for Slaves to obtain their freedom and to obtain later manumission, but it was a qualified freedom when they did obtain it, and, to a certain extent, made Slaves their own masters and mistresses. But there had been great difficulty in administering these laws, though those difficulties might be expected to disappear under the English supervision now more or less existing at Cairo. Mr. Clifford Lloyd, the Englishman who was assisting in what may be called the Egyptian Home Office in Cairo, had written to him that it would be quite impossible for him to see that these laws were administered with energy unless some such home as was proposed was provided. Unless it was provided the simple result of freeing these poor women was to leave them to a life of misery and degradation which could not be described to the meeting, and which was even more dreadful than a similar life in our own country. The result of the Manumission Laws has been that a large number of Slaves had obtained their freedom, and Sir Evelyn Baring, in opening a similar meeting at Cairo, within the last few days, said "that the number of Slaves that had obtained their manumission in five years was 9,000, of whom 3,700 were men, and 5,300 women, by far the larger portion of the women being negresses and Abyssinians." More than 300 were freed last year, but it was grievous to learn that nearly the whole of them had been driven to a life of misery and degradation. What was proposed, therefore, was clearly a great charity. We were interfering with the Oriental habits as to Slavery, as we had a perfect right to do, but we must take the consequence of that interference, and it was manifestly the case, as regards these poor women, that we ought to establish this home. (Hear, hear.) Mrs. Sheldon Amos, who had just come from Cairo, and who was kindly taking an active part in the movement, stated in a memorandum on the subject, "that last year 381 women and girls had obtained their freedom. Everyone of those needed a

home to go to, though they had found none. It was proposed now to take in all such women for longer or shorter time, depending on age and capabilities, necessary to train them more or less completely, then to see them married, or placed out in respectable service.

It was hoped that very soon after being established such a home could be made almost self-supporting by laundry and dairy work, and though the expense at first would be heavy, from the necessity of engaging Europeans speaking Arabic, when the work that was being done became known the pressure would be less." They were most anxious not to be hampered for want of money. Having received that letter from Mr. Clifford Lloyd, and knowing that he was not the man to make an appeal without good reason, some few of them had met together and begun a subscription. That subscription had been increased lately, and it was a great pleasure to them to know that the Queen, who was always so ready to help in all efforts, and especially for women, had most generously given a subscription of £100 (cheers). It was a matter upon which in Egypt there was absolutely no difference of opinion. At a meeting held under the presidency of Sir E. Baring, Nubar Pacha attended, and all the Englishmen of eminence in the city, and there was reason to believe that the scheme would be well supported by the leading natives. The meeting, therefore, would see the necessity of making this effort for the sake of the women themselves. But there were other reasons; one was that the best way to strike a blow against Slavery was by taking the Egyptian and Oriental laws as they stood and working them to the best advantage, and, as he had told them, without this aid it was impossible to work them; for nobody could feel justified in freeing these poor women without some such home for them to go to. A much stronger reason for action was that it would be the most efficient blow which could be struck at the Slave-trade. Bad as this domestic Slavery was, he would never, as regards its horrors, put it in comparison with the fate of Slaves taken from the west coast of Africa to work on American plantations. He granted it was quite different; but as regards catching the Slaves, and the sufferings of the Slaves in getting to market by means of the famous middle passage in Slavers, that was not one whit worse, and he

did not believe it was so bad as the horrible journey across the desert of the Slave caravans, marked as the track was by the bones of the victims, and by the starved skeletons that really reached market at last. One of the main reasons why that sort of Slave traffic was carried on was the trade in ivory. The Arabs caught negroes to carry ivory down to the coast. If the Slave lived he was sold too; but the Arab was, as a rule, satisfied with his speculation if the Slave had strength enough to get to the port with the ivory, and then died. The great demand for Slaves now was for the harems, especially for women; and the sufferings the poor girls underwent on their way were indescribable. Now by far the most effective mode of dealing with that horrible trade was to stop the demand (hear, hear). It was because by helping the proposed home they could do a great deal towards stopping the demand in Egypt itself that he pressed it so earnestly upon them. The intention of the ladies and gentlemen starting the home at Cairo was to begin in a careful and very unpretentious manner to get one or two houses, and a matron who understood Arabic. They had the great encouragement of a most efficient committee in Cairo, and very great help in Mrs. Sheldon Amos, who had been devoting herself to the work, and who was going back to Cairo very shortly. The enterprise, therefore, was likely to be managed in an effective and businesslike way. He could not say more to those who would be as ready to be interested in it as he was himself, and he would, therefore, only once more commend the resolution to them (hear, hear).

Sir FOWELL BUXTON seconded the resolution. He said a good case had been made out for establishing the home. We had been compelled to take interest in the efforts of the Government for the suppression of the Slave-trade on the West Coast and the East Coast of Africa. The work had been loyally done by the agents of the Foreign Office on the East Coast. As far as we continued to bring pressure to bear there a good effect would be produced. We had a burden of responsibility laid upon us in Egypt to do something to elevate the position of those who were able to claim their freedom. If we could diminish the demand for Slaves, we should strike the heaviest blow at those who

were carrying on the Slave-trade in the interior (hear, hear). The only efficient mode of suppression was stopping the demand in Egypt itself. We could not yet ask for changes in the Egyptian law, which, however, allowed already of much being done in the way of manumission. It was clear that the laws could not now be worked for freeing women, without homes being temporarily provided for them. All that was needed was was to teach them how to gain their livelihood in a civilised community, and a few months, or even weeks, would suffice to impart such knowledge. Such an institution would lead to many of the Slaves at once claiming their freedom, and he hoped the effort would receive aid and encouragement.

Dr. GINSBERG supported the resolution, and from personal experience of Egypt affirmed Mr. Forster's proposition that unless some such homes were provided, and women taught to earn their own living, it would be far better to leave them in Slavery than to set them free. The women were industrious and apt, and very little training would fit them to support themselves as servants to the English and European residents in Egypt.

Mr. WYLDE, late of the Slave-trade Department of the Foreign Office, also supported the resolution, saying the proposal for providing homes had his heartiest sympathy.

Mr. E. STURGE, chairman of the Anti-Slavery Society, also supported the resolution, saying the society was co-operating in the movement, and congratulated the meeting on the prospect of success which appeared.

The resolution was then put by Alderman Sir W. M'ARTHUR, who had replaced the Lord Mayor, and it was carried unanimously.

Sir F. GOLDSMID moved the next resolution:—

"That the following gentlemen be requested to act as a committee, with power to add to their number: The Lord Mayor, M.P., the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., Sir T. Fowell Buxton, Bart., and Mr. Edmund Sturge." He said he had been resident in Egypt two and a half years, and nearly 50 years altogether in the East. If any condition could be worse than that of a Slave, it was that of a manumitted Slave who was not provided for. He, therefore, heartily supported the object of the meeting, as he regarded it as a duty to

provide for the results of the abolition of Slavery.

Dr. LEITNER, Principal of the Government College at Lahore, seconded the resolution, cordially concurring in the policy of utilising the existing Egyptian laws for the diminution of Slavery. He suggested that there were points on which the power of argument could be brought to bear from the Koran on Mahommetans in favour of extinguishing Slavery, for the Koran enjoined the manumission of faithful Slaves and the giving them a portion of the wealth which they had helped to earn. By such means a permanent basis might be provided for the excellent object they had in view. Let me circulate in Egypt the texts of the Koran on the subject of manumission, kindness, apprenticeship, and other cognate matters. Infinite good might be done in that way.

Mr. Arthur Pease, M.P., president of the Anti-Slavery Society, seconded the resolution, and said we had the right to claim that Egypt should carry out a convention made some years ago for the emancipation of Slaves. But our own Government, if urged to take action, would require to know what would be done for these freed people. What was now being proposed would teach the Slaves what they could do for themselves. They would, by establishing such homes, show their own sympathy, and teach Egyptian women that it was in their power to help themselves.

Mr. PERCY BUNTING, of Lincoln's-inn, seconded the resolution, giving some details of the scheme to be carried out in Cairo, and said that Dr. Leitner's suggestion would not be lost sight of.

The resolution was put to the meeting, and was carried unanimously, and it was announced that subscriptions would be received by the Anti-Slavery Society.

Mr. GORDON moved:—"That the cordial thanks of this meeting be presented to the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, M.P., for his great kindness, both in presiding on the present occasion, and in granting the use of the Mansion House for the purpose of the meeting."

Mr. CHESON seconded the resolution, including Sir William M'Arthur, who had relieved the Lord Mayor to go and lay the foundation stone of a church at Hornsey.

Sir W. M'ARTHUR, M.P., responded for the Lord Mayor, eulogising his activity in every good work. He returned thanks also on his own account, heartily endorsing the object of the meeting.

CUBA

AN article in *The Times* of 23rd April, treating of the filibustering expedition lately landed in Cuba, under General Aguero, contains an interesting review of the condition of that Island, and of the state of the Slave question:—

" If there were but two parties in the island—the Loyalists and the Separatists—the former, by means of a strong Spanish garrison, might easily preserve order: at the same time it might pacify the Separatists by carrying out the Liberal reforms which the Home Government is very anxious to accomplish.

" Unfortunately Spain has to reckon with a third party, called the Peninsulars or Conservatives, who are the strongest foes to the Separatists, but who give only a qualified support to the Royal authority represented by the Captain-General, the Royal troops, and the State officials. The Conservatives are composed for the most part of Spanish immigrants. Some are planters, others merchants and tradesmen; they have the clergy on their side, and they are opposed to all reforms, political, fiscal, and commercial. They object to the emancipation of the Slaves; they want to maintain protection, monopolies, and mercantile privileges which hamper free trade in the island; they are determined to prevent Protestants from settling in Cuba as traders, and they will not suffer the appointment of Creoles or native Cubans to any office of authority under the State. The Peninsulars are a force to the Government whenever the enterprises of the Creoles—who, for the most part, abhor the Spanish yoke—have to be repressed; but they are a weakness and a trouble to it whenever the Government seeks by conciliatory measures to allay discontent in the island, for they have 60,000 Volunteers at their orders who might be available at any moment for a *pronunciamiento*. As we lately reported, General Aguero's raid upon Cuba was undertaken at the very moment when Spain was preparing to negotiate a Treaty of Commerce with the United States in view of bettering the material condition of Cuba. On the 7th of this month, Mr. Foster, the United States' Minister at Madrid, started for Washington to arrange the terms of this treaty,

which, as it is understood, may greatly benefit the products of the Spanish colonies. The truth is that not only Spanish Liberals like Senor Posada-Herrera and Senor Sagasta, but Spanish Conservative Ministers like Senor Canovas del Castillo have made up their minds that reforms of all kinds are required in Cuba; yet it is to be feared that the best intentions of these statesmen will not be enough to destroy the influence which Aguero notoriously possesses, because the good intentions of the Home Government have too often miscarried. The Moret law, passed in 1870, for the emancipation of all Slaves over 60 years of age, and of all Slaves' children born after the Act, remained a dead letter. In 1879 another Bill for the emancipation of the Slaves was introduced into the Cortes; but the Cuban Deputies, who chiefly represent the Creole interest, tried to get the measure coupled with one of financial reforms, and this produced a split in the Cabinet of Marshal Martinez de Campos, which resigned. Senor Canovas del Castillo, who succeeded to the Premiership, began his tenure of office badly by a quarrel with the Liberal party in the Cortes on a point of etiquette. The Liberals, alleging that they had been insulted by the Minister, remained absent from the Chamber during several sittings, and leaving the business of legislation to the Conservatives, they ruined the chances of the Emancipation Bill. That Bill was obnoxious to the Conservatives from its granting no compensation to the planters for the abolition of Slavery.

"But it was significant that Marshal Campos should have introduced such a Bill, for it was he who had taken the principal part in suppressing the last Cuban revolt. It will be remembered that this insurrection, which began in 1873, cost in five years more than 100,000 lives. General Martinez de Campos was sent out in 1876. The Spanish Government had raised a loan of £600,000 on the security of Cuban customs, and it was able to equip a force of 14,000 men to cope with the Creole rebels and their coloured adherents. After 15 months of warfare the insurrection was almost crushed out. Monchado, the President of the rebel Cortes, was killed; Cespedes, the brothers Maceo, Caledonio Rodrigues, Rogelio Castillo, and other leaders were captured, while a number more, and among them Aguero, fled to the United States.

General Campos, who had been appointed Captain-General of the island, followed up his victories by a merciful treatment of the insurgents who fell into his power, and by several very liberal edicts for the protection of Slaves against ruthless masters, and for the protection of Cubans in general against arbitrary arrest and imprisonment without trial. He also made grants of Government land to compensate those who had lost property by the insurrection.

"But General Campos returned to Spain with the feeling that a great deal more remained to be done, and the Emancipation Bill, which he brought forward after becoming Prime Minister, would have been attended, if he could have had his way, by other measures for placing the Creoles and the Spaniards on a footing of equality. However, while the Emancipation Bill was under the consideration of the Senate news arrived that the Cuban revolt had broken out afresh, and on the 22nd of April, 1880, the Cortes voted a resolution adjourning all reforms in Cuba until the island should be completely pacified, and until a treaty of commerce should be negotiated with the United States. In the following month Mazari, the leader of the new rebellion, and 42 Creole officers, his fellow conspirators, were captured by the Royal troops and sentenced to be shot. The Captain-General Blanco y Castanola suspended their execution, and asked for instructions from the Home Government. He was told to use his own discretion, upon which he pardoned most of the offenders, and commuted the sentence of the others into imprisonment—an act of clemency which did much to bring about the temporary conciliation of the National party. It was not till September, that the last leaders of insurgent bands, Carrillo and Pigneas, surrendered; but in the meantime the great body of the rebels had laid down their arms, accepting General Blanco's terms of peace, which included a reduction of the working hours to be exacted from black labourers and the prohibition of corporal punishment. Since then the island has been fairly quiet; but there is no denying that its condition is such as to render another insurrection possible at any moment, and it is certain that General Aguero embarked on no hopeless enterprise when he sailed from Key West.

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"Whatever may be the fate of Aguero, it is evident to all who know what are the grievances of the National party in Cuba that the Home Government will have to act with considerable judgment and firmness if another civil war is to be averted. Aguero may be a patriot or a mere filibuster, but so long as the Creoles can complain that the measures taken on their behalf by the Spanish Government are frustrated by colonial officials and by the Spanish residents in Cuba, so long will any adventurer with arms and money be able to raise insurgent bands. The Slave question in Cuba is only one among the national grievances, though of course it ranks first. Slavery was abolished by the Moret law, and the Nationalists contend that this law is still in force; but, whether or no, the planters have still power over the blacks by reason of laws which have placed the ex-Slaves under their 'protection,' and which make it a felony for anybody to 'entice away from his work a negro who had contracted to serve for a term of years.' Obviously the protection which a planter exercises over a black bound to serve him for years must differ little from Slaveholding, and there can be no security that a planter will deal fairly or with common humanity by the negroes, since the judges who would adjudicate on a negro's complaint are all Spaniards at enmity with the abolitionists. The recent Governors of Cuba have all been liberal minded men, but they have found it either inexpedient or impracticable to alter some of the local institutions by which judicial power is vested almost entirely in the hands of the Peninsulars."

This abominable system of admitting only *Peninsulars* or Spaniards to any office in the island is at the root of most of the heart-burnings that produce such constant outbreaks and insurrections in Cuba. It reminds us of an old saying current amongst the Creoles, that "if there were a Spanish mule in Cuba, it would be elected to office rather than a native-born Cuban!"

MOROCCO.—An article by the Secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society appeared in *The Times* of 12th May, page 3.

LADIES' NEGRO'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

THE fifth annual meeting of the Ladies' Negro's Friend Society was held on May 2, at Mrs. Joseph Sturge's, 64, Wheeley's Road, Edgbaston. The Rev. Canon Bowlby presided; and there were also present the Revds. J. Jenkyn Brown and W. Holman Bentley, together with a large number of ladies, including Mrs. Joseph Sturge, Mrs. E. Sturge, Mrs. C. D. Sturge, Miss E. M. Sturge, Miss. L. Cadbury, Miss H. Cadbury, Miss E. Cadbury, Mrs. Coles (Derby), Mrs. Middlemore, Mrs. Joel Cadbury, Mrs. Furneaux Jordan, Mrs. William Lloyd, Miss E. T. Phipson, Mrs. A. Richardson, the Misses Albright, &c.

Mrs. EDMUND STURGE read the annual report, which dealt exhaustively with matters affecting the interests of the negro and other aboriginal races. It commenced with the remark that at the fifty-ninth anniversary of the society they were met by such a crisis in Anti-Slavery History as had never before occurred. It was beyond their province to enter into the political state of Egypt, which in the past had so greatly affected the question of Slavery, and which at that time was inseparably connected with the present formidable difficulties. When, however, political events so immeasurably influenced the condition of multitudes of people, they must ardently desire that they should be opposed to the perpetuation of their enslavement. After giving a history of Slavery in the Soudan, the report referred to the proposed home for freed woman Slaves at Cairo. It was believed that if the home were well supported during the first two years it would become self-supporting afterwards. The present Khedive had lately said with regard to Slavery that he detested the system and had a great desire for the education of the Egyptian people. Appreciation was expressed in the report of the work of the Association Nationale Africaine on the Congo, as opening up to civilisation and Christianity a region once the home of the Slave Trade. It was feared, however, that a system of forced negro labour existed in the Comoro Islands, the property of English and Americans. The transactions of the French in Madagascar were condemned as having for one of their objects the obtaining labourers for the Island of Re-union on "the *engagés* system," a term that had hitherto covered deceit and violence. The long-established missions on the West

Coast, the Livingston and University Missions recently springing up on the Congo, and numerous labourers, working almost alone, like Mr. and Mrs. Aitchison (the missionaries sustained by the Birmingham Young Men's Association), were adduced as evidences of the many influences for good extending over the "dark continent." The Negro's Friend Society had made several grants to schools for negroes in the West Indies and the United States, and to other agencies working in different parts of the world for the benefit of the coloured race. Proof was given in many cases of the good done through the help of the society, and in some instances the grants were most opportune, enabling the institutions to tide over serious crises. With regard to Jamaica disappointment was expressed that the Commissioners were recommending the importation of Coolie labour to compete with that of the negroes, who were already none too well paid. On the other hand, the Panama Canal works were providing employment for thousands of negroes, whose qualities as navvies were highly eulogised. The income of the society last year was £204 9s. 9d., which was the largest they had had since Mrs. E. Sturge had been connected with it. The first year's income was about £900, then it got to £600, then to £300, then to £100, and was once, she believed, as low as £70. They apprehended a slight diminution this year, though the demands upon them were not likely to be lessened.

Mrs. JOEL CADBURY read the annual balance-sheet.

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and after speaking of the work of the society as being of a truly Christian character, said that, with regard to the Congo, the Government had under consideration a treaty which, if ratified, would hand the control of the mouth of that river over to the Portuguese, the nation that was the most deeply tainted with Slavery. He therefore hoped that that treaty would not be ratified.

Miss E. T. PHIPSON seconded the motion, which was carried.

After luncheon the Rev. W. HOLMAN BENTLEY gave some details of the work of the Baptist Missionary Society on the Congo. He stated that they were well received at San Salvador, the capital of the kingdom of Congo, and even before they could learn the language

were called upon by the King and people to hold services in Portuguese, the only European language the people understood; but their advance into the interior was resisted for some time, as the people were great traders, and did not wish the whites to get to the territory whence they obtained the ivory and other products out of which they made such great profits. However, by following the opposite bank of the river—the north bank—they had got as far as Stanley Pool, and had now launched a steel steamboat, brought from England in sections. In Congo they had successful schools, and at the stations on the river they were now prepared to carry on missionary work. It was proposed to follow the whole upper navigable portion of the river, planting ten stations, 100 miles apart, and reaching right to the centre of the continent. There were large affluents, too, which it was hoped also to utilise for the spread of the gospel over the country.

On the motion of Miss E. STURGE, seconded by Miss GODDARD, and supported by the Rev. J. JENKYN BROWN, it was unanimously resolved to send a memorial to Earl Granville asking that the proposed cession of the mouth of the Congo to Portugal should not be ratified. It was also agreed to petition the King of the Belgians not to sanction the Association Internationale making intoxicating liquors an article of trade with the Congo settlements.

A vote of thanks to the chairman and to Mrs. Joseph Sturge closed the proceedings.

CHINESE GORDON.

Some men live near to God, as my right arm
Is near to me; and thus they walk about,
Mailed in full proof of faith, and bear a charm
That mocks at fear, and bars the door on
doubt,

And dares the impossible. So, Gordon, thou,
Through the hot stir of this distracted time,
Dost hold thy course, a flaming witness how
To do and dare, and make our lives sublime
As God's campaigners. What live we for but
this?—

Into the sour to breathe the soul of sweetness;
The stunted growth to rear to fair complete-
ness;

Drown sneers in smiles; kill hatred with a
kiss;

And to the sandy waste bequeath the fame,
That the grass grew behind us where we
came!

JOHN STUART BLACKIE.

From *Leisure Hour*.

ABYSSINIA.

25th April, 1884.

TO THE EDITOR OF *The Times*.

Sir,—The following letter received this morning from our corresponding member, Dr. Gerhard Rohlfs, will probably be read with interest at the present moment. Dr. Rohlfs' great experience in African travel renders his opinion in these matters worthy of earnest attention, as his knowledge of Abyssinian affairs and etiquette is probably unrivalled.

I am, sir,

Yours faithfully,

CHAS. H. ALLEN.

(Translation)

Weimar, 23rd April, 1884.

"Dear Mr. Allen,—I read this morning in the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, that Admiral Hewett had met with some difficulties in entering Abyssinia. When I remember how even Gordon completely broke down in his Mission to the Court of the Negus in 1880, I am at a loss to conceive why the English Government do not send men to Abyssinia who know the Negus, and who are conversant with the manners and customs of the people. Dr. Schweinfurth writes to me: 'I fear that the interview of the Admiral with the Negus will break down on the question of etiquette.' An Abyssinian army ought to have been sent long ago to Khartoum. Two years ago I wrote to the English Government, to Lord Dufferin and Lord Baring, that, furnished with a safe conduct from the Negus, I should be able to conclude an immediate peace between Egypt and Abyssinia. But I have always been refused by the English Government. Why I do not know. It is said that the Abyssinians who have been employed at Souakim are worthless. I believe, rather, that they did not know how to manage them. During my travels in Africa, I never met with better servants than the Abyssinians.

"What will they do now? Send Egyptian troops to Khartoum? They would never arrive there. Send English soldiers? There are not enough on the spot. Why not then

send some thousands of Abyssinian soldiers, via Kassala, to Khartoum? Kassala is on the way between Massowah and Khartoum. They might offer to give Kassala to the Negus as a reward! It is sad, indeed, to leave the heroic Gordon in a mouse-trap without attempting to send him assistance. My colleague, Sir Samuel Baker, when at Souakim, proposed to form stations for water on the road to Berber. Six months ago, I offered to the military government at Cairo 500 iron tanks, enamelled with tin inside, to hold water. These tanks carried by 250 camels, containing each 50 litres of water, and accompanied by 3,000 English soldiers, would have lasted six days without the necessity of seeking for a well. That is to say, each soldier would have had at his disposal six litres of water per day. *These iron tanks are in Egypt at the present moment.* I offered them to the Government, but they would not make use of them. I have even further offered 2,000 to 3,000 iron tanks made according to my own design. During my expedition in the Lyban Desert (1873-4), I made use of these tanks (*caisses*), and for 22 days the whole of my caravan had no water but what was contained in these iron tanks.

"It is so pitiable when one has the means at hand for putting down this revolt to see expedients tried each one worse than the other!

"I much fear that they will be too late to deliver Gordon. But Gordon is worth more than those men who were held prisoners at Magdala in 1865, and on account of whom England sent a great expedition into Abyssinia, which cost her £15,000,000 sterling.

I am, yours very truly,

GERHARD ROHLFS.

PROPOSED ITALIAN EXPLORATION IN AFRICA.

Signor Camperio, the President of the Society of Commercial Exploration, sends us notice that this society, in conjunction with that of the General Italian Navigation, has opened a fund to carry out a first circumnavigatory African voyage (*Viaggio di Circumnavigazione dell' Africa*), as they consider such an expedition will prepare the way for a career for many of the Italian youth, and that hitherto the commercial results of Italian exploration have been but secondary compared with what has been achieved by many other nations, and that the heroism of Italian explorers has not as yet borne the fruit it deserves. We are desirous to make this intention widely known.

THE ALLIGATOR.

A NEW danger appears to follow travellers and missionaries in Africa. We have frequently had to chronicle the death of brave and earnest men from fever, but it is rarely that anything so horrifying has been recorded as the death of Captain Berry in Lake Nyassa from the attack of an alligator. Dr. Moir of Edinburgh sends the following graphic description of this accident to *The Times*. It reminds us of what Mr. Hutley told us he had witnessed on Lake Tanganyika, where a gang of 20 Slaves, chained together, on going down to the Lake for water, were attacked by an alligator, which swept the foremost men into the water by a stroke of his tail, according to the custom of those cunning monsters, and then dragged the whole convoy under water. It is needless to add that they were never seen again. Dr. Moir writes as follows:—

Sir,—I have seen but two short statements about the sad death of Captain Berry, but as I suppose that the account I had from my son is the only authentic one that can have reached this country, I send it to you as I have it from him.

His letter is dated "Maipopo's, near North End of Nyassa, 17th Dec., 1883. But now I have a fearfully sad story to tell. Two hunters came up from Natal to shoot, one Lieutenant Crawshay, who has had the fever ever since his arrival, and has never been out, and Captain Berry, who has been about with us for eight or ten days. Well, last Thursday we were upon the Kawnee river, had had a long unsuccessful tramp after elephants the day before, and about 8 a.m. we went down to the river to bathe as usual. Berry, Munro

and I went in, and Pulley came down a little later. I was just leaving the water, Munro and Berry still in, when something appeared to go wrong, and Berry's head went under water. In a few seconds he rose further out, struggling. He was pulled under at once, and he next came up in deep water near the other side, an immense alligator having him right across the body. He seemed then insensible, and utterly at the brute's mercy. As, before we knew anything was wrong, the great brute's tail was towards us, and it was off into deep water, we were powerless to help. It was two minutes before we could get a rifle down, and by that time it was too late; and so our companion was seized and carried off within three or four yards of us, and just where we had been bathing a few minutes before. We watched the banks all the way down the river to a fish weir and shot five alligators during the day—one, 13 ft. long, close to where Berry was taken, and truly with such a brute a man had no chance. As yet no remains of the body have been found. It is fearfully sad; the first time a white man has been taken in that way as far as we know." On the 23rd of December he adds:—"Not a trace found of poor Berry's body. 'Be ye therefore ready also,' &c., is plainly written here."

I may add that Lieutenant Crawshay was so ill some days after that my son sat up with him a night expecting his demise, but towards the morning, under the treatment employed, he began to revive, and some weeks after, I learned from my other son at Mendala, on the Shire, that Mr. Crawshay was then convalescent, so that should this meet the eye of Lieutenant Crawshay's friends, they may know he is now well. I may mention that my two sons are joint managers of the African Lakes Company, whose endeavour is to introduce civilization with Christianity in the district where they work. They have been engaged lately in taking up a steamer in sections to Lake Tanganyika for the London Missionary Society.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN MOIR.

52, Castle-street, Edinburgh.

FORM OF BEQUEST

TO

ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

"I give to the Treasurer of the Anti-Slavery Society, or to the person for the time being acting as such, whose receipt I direct shall be a full discharge for the same, the sum of £ sterling (free of Legacy Duty) to be applied for the general purposes of the said Society, to be fully paid out of such part of my personal estate, as is legally applicable to such purpose."

For particulars of Society's work apply to the Secretary, 55, New Broad Street, London, E.C.

The British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.

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J. G. Barclay, Esq. ...	100	0	0	Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone ..	20	0	0
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Most of the above sums are annual subscriptions for two years, and about £150 have been received in smaller sums.

It is obvious that a much larger sum will be required in order to render the HOME efficient, and it is confidently hoped that the Appeal now made will be cordially responded to.

The British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society have kindly provided office accommodation and clerical labour *gratis*. Cheques crossed "Dimsdale, Fowler & Co." may be forwarded to any of the London Committee, or to

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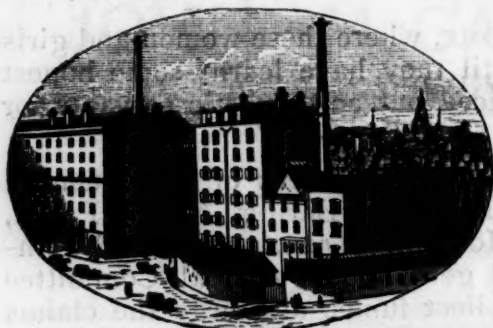
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